



EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2.00 PM THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2020

COUNCIL CHAMBER - PORT TALBOT CIVIC CENTRE

All mobile telephones to be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting

PART 1

1. Declarations of Interest
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*Pages 5 - 28*)

To scrutinise information and monitoring issues being reported by:

3. Cerdd NPT Music Update (*Pages 29 - 32*)
4. Update of the Vulnerable Learners Service (VLS) (*Pages 33 - 38*)
5. Pre-Decision Scrutiny
 - i. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (Cabinet Boards reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
6. Forward Work Programme 2019/20 (*Pages 39 - 40*)
7. Urgent Items
Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972
8. Access to Meetings

Access to Meetings to resolve to exclude the public for the following item(s) pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

PART 2

9. Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Private Item/s
 - I. To select appropriate private items from the Cabinet Board agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board Reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).

S.Phillips
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

Friday, 13 March 2020

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: **Councillor S.H.Reynolds**

Vice Chairperson: **Councillor R.Mizen**

Councillors: M.Crowley, S.apDafydd, S.Harris, J.Jones,
D.Keogh, S.Miller, J.D.Morgan, R.Phillips,
M.Protheroe, S.Renkes, A.J.Richards,
D.Whitelock and J.Hale

***Co-opted** M.Caddick, A. Amor and L.Newman
Voting Members

***Co-opted Non** R.De Benedictis
Voting Members

Notes:

- (1) *If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.*

- (2) *If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.*
- (3) *For pre scrutiny arrangements, the Chair will normally recommend forthcoming executive items for discussion/challenge. It is also open to Committee Members to request items to be raised - though Members are asked to be selective here in regard to important issues.*
- (4) *The relevant Cabinet Board Members will also be invited to be present at the meeting for Scrutiny/ Consultation purposes.*
- (5) *Would the Scrutiny Committee Members please bring the Cabinet Board papers with them to the meeting.*

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EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

24 October 2019

Chairperson: Councillor S.H.Reynolds

Vice Chairperson: Councillor R.Mizen

Councillors: M.Crowley, S.apDafydd, S.Harris, J.Jones, D.Keogh, S.Miller, M.Protheroe, S.Renkes, A.J.Richards, D.Whitelock and J.Hale

Officers In Attendance: C.Millis, A.Thomas, I.Guy, P.Walker, D.Holder-Phillips, M.Daley, J.Haeney, A.Herbert, H.Lewis, A.Spooner-Cleverly, C.Davies and T.Davies

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors P.A.Rees and A.J.Taylor

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Councillor S.apDafydd

Re: Item 4 of the Cabinet papers re Home to School Travel Appeals procedure, and item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as he is a Governor at St Joseph's Catholic Comprehensive School and Sixth Form Centre and Ysgol Bae Baglan.

M.Caddick

Re: Item 4 of the Cabinet papers re Home to School Travel Appeals procedure, and item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re

Admission to Schools, as she has grandchildren in schools within Neath Port Talbot, a grandchild using school transport and is a governor of a school within Neath Port Talbot.

Councillor M.Crowley

Re: Item 4 of the Cabinet papers re Home to School Travel Appeals procedure, and item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as he is a governor at schools within Neath Port Talbot.

Councillor S.Harris

Re: Item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as she is governor at Creunant Primary school.

Councillor J.Jones

Re: Item 4 of the Cabinet papers re Home to School Travel Appeals procedure, and item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as she has grandchildren in schools within Neath Port Talbot and she is a governor at Pen Afan Primary school.

Councillor D.Keogh

Re: Item 4 of the Cabinet papers re Home to School Travel Appeals procedure, and item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as he is a governor at Ysgol Cwm Brombil.

Councillor S.Miller

Re: Item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as she has grandchildren in Melin Primary school and is Chair of governors at Melin Primary school.

Councillor R.Mizen

Re: Item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as he is a governor at Ysgol Cwm Brombil and Cwmavon Primary school.

Councillor M.Protheroe

Re: Item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as he is a governor at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive school and Melin Primary school.

Councillor P.A.Rees

Re: Item 4 of the Cabinet papers re Home to School Travel Appeals procedure, and item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as he is a governor at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive school and Crynallt Primary school, and he has a granddaughter who uses school transport.

Councillor S.Renkes

Re: Item 4 of the Cabinet papers re Home to School Travel Appeals procedure, and item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as she is a governor at Baglan and Blaen Baglan Primary schools.

Councillor S.Reynolds

Re: Item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as she is a governor at Ysgol Gwaen Cae Gurwen.

Councillor A.J.Taylor

Re: Item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as he is a governor at Eastern Primary school and has children in Ysgol Cwm Brombil.

Councillor D.Whitelock

Re: Item 4 of the Cabinet papers re Home to School Travel Appeals

procedure, and item 4 of the Scrutiny Committee papers re Admission to Schools, as he has grandchildren in schools within Neath Port Talbot who use school transport and is a governor of Ysgol Cwm Brombil.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the minutes of the 12 September 2019, be approved.

Valleys Champion

The Chair sought nominations from the Committee for the new role of Valleys Champion. Councillor D.Whitelock volunteered for the role.

3. **MINUTES OF EDUCATION THROUGH REGIONAL WORKING (ERW) JOINT SCRUTINY COUNCILLOR GROUP**

Committee was pleased to note that Members nominated from Neath Port Talbot had attended every meeting they had been invited to, and were providing challenge.

That the minutes of the 3 June 2019, be approved.

4. **ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS**

Members received information and data in relation to the admission of pupils to Neath Port Talbot schools, and were pleased to note that every child who had applied for a school place within Neath Port Talbot had received a place.

There had been a large scale movement of pupils, following in year transfer applications totalling 925, in 2018/19. Members queried whether each of these transfers had been relocated successfully and as per their first choice. Officers explained that not all had got their first choice, some had had their second choice and some had stayed in their original school, or chosen to appeal the decision.

The new school in the area of Coed D'Arcy was discussed, and it was noted that it had not yet been designated as an English or a Welsh medium school. Welsh medium capital grants were expected within the next couple of years which would ease current pressures in existing Welsh medium schools. It was hoped the new school in Coed D'Arcy would be built in 2021 – the admissions figures would be included in the report following the opening.

Members queried what support was available to parents regarding the appeals process, and noted that the appeals procedure was clearly set out for parents who chose to make an appeal, and information was also available from education and legal officers.

The high number of pupils in Dwr Y Felin comprehensive school was discussed, and members noted that various factors influence where children are placed, including parental choice, siblings in the same school, the appeals process and the proximity of the homes of looked after children.

Contingency plans were discussed should any local schools reach their capacity – catchment areas could be altered, schools could be expanded, and the new school at Coed D'Arcy, would all be taken into account.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

5. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

The Committee chose to scrutinise the following Cabinet Board items:

Home to School Travel Assistance Appeals Procedure

Officers highlighted a typing error on page 14 of the Cabinet board papers, regarding the Council's Transport Group. The figures relating to the makeup of the Group were incorrect, and would be amended prior to implementation.

The new second stage of the appeals process was explained. Members noted that although it would increase the workload of officers within the Education directorate, officers were there to help families.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet Board.

Annual Report on Young People who are not in Education, Employment or Training

The large amount of work that went into identifying young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) was noted. The figures in front of Members were very transparent.

Members requested better clarity of labelling of graphs on subsequent reports.

Following Scrutiny, the report was noted.

Curriculum for Wales 2022 – Presentation

Members received a presentation on the new curriculum which would be introduced to Wales from 2022. It was noted that each school would design their own curriculum which would be suitable for the community the school was in. A Curriculum Advisory Group had been established within Neath Port Talbot, with the purpose of advising schools on dealing with the radically different requirements.

It was as yet, unclear what the end point would be – whether there would be still be GCSEs and so on. There would, however, need to be a change to the exam structure, as there would be a change to the teaching. There was cross party support for the proposals which would not be affected by a potential change of government at Westminster.

Collaboration between teachers across different schools would be encouraged to widen the knowledge base, instead of the traditional method of going on a course. Professional learning money was still available per member of staff, should schools still feel courses were of benefit.

It was noted that additional learning needs (ALN) pupil's curriculum would also be changing – this change would be presented in the yearly ALN update, as well as in an all Member seminar on ALN reforms scheduled for February 2020

Following Scrutiny, the presentation was noted.

6. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

Site visits for Committee Members to Ysgol Bae Baglan and Ysgol Bro Dyr were discussed. The Scrutiny officer would liaise with Members to arrange.

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme for 2019/20.

CHAIRPERSON

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EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

18 December 2019

Chairperson: Councillor S.H.Reynolds

Vice Chairperson: Councillor R.Mizen

Councillors: S.apDafydd, S.Harris, J.Jones, D.Keogh,
S.Miller, J.D.Morgan, M.Protheroe, S.Renkes,
A.J.Richards, D.Whitelock and J.Hale.

**Co-opted
Members** A.Amor and M.Caddick

**Officers In
Attendance** A.Thomas, C.Millis, P.Walker, R.Crowhurst,
W.John, P.Doyle, I.Guy, C.L.Davies, and
J.Woodman-Ralph

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors P.A.Rees
A.R.Lockyer

1. **LEISURE AND CULTURE SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE MINUTES**

That the minutes of the Leisure and Culture Sub Committee of the 29 January, 3 May, 5 September and the 22 November 2019 be noted.

2. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

The committee chose to scrutinise the following cabinet board items:

Quarterly Performance Management Data 2019-2020-
Quarter 2 Performance (1 April – 30 September 2019)

Members received the quarter 2 performance management data, complaints and compliments for the period 1 April 2019 to 30

September 2019 for Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Directorate as detailed in the circulated report.

The decrease in attendance figures was discussed, and members noted that the recent sickness virus in schools had impacted on these figures.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

Library Service Review

The committee received an overview of the review of the Library Service in Neath Port Talbot as detailed in the circulated report.

Clarification was given that the proposal to move the library headquarters to Ynysmaerdy School would not impact on other libraries in the area. As the headquarters would be a storage facility and would be an Education Library Resource Centre for Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

The committee heard that the review was a comprehensive one which included community libraries. As a result officers would be meeting with all community libraries in January 2020 to find out what support they needed going forward. Members asked that their appreciation be given to library staff, communities (who took over the running of libraries) and volunteers for all the commitment and dedication they had shown over the past few years in ensuring the library service continues to thrive.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by the cabinet board.

Strategic School Improvement Programme – Proposal to establish specialist provision for secondary age pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Information was received on the the proposal to establish a specialist provision for secondary age pupils with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) at Dwr y Felin Comprehensive School as detailed in the circulated report.

It was highlighted that 17 consultation responses had been received all of which expressed support for the proposal.

The school would receive additional funding to support the proposal. Specialist staff would be recruited which would benefit all schools, by sharing their knowledge and practice as the strategies for children who were not statemented were the same.

Concern was expressed at the plan to allow the bus bringing children to this specialist provision into the school yard as there were already issues with vehicles accessing this area. Officer explained that measures had been put in place to ensure children's safety and that the children would be supervised in the controlled area on arrival and departure.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by the cabinet board.

3. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

Members noted the Forward Work Programme 2019/20. It was highlighted that site visits to Bae Baglan and Bro Dur would take place on the 3 February 2020. In addition, the All Member Seminar on Additional Learning Needs Reform would take place on the 6 February 2020. All members were encouraged to attend.

4. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: That pursuant to Section 100A (4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

Pre-Decision Scrutiny

The committee chose to scrutinise the following private cabinet board items:

Celtic Leisure Six Monthly Performance Review 2019-2020
and
Celtic Leisure Performance Review 2019 -20

The committee was reminded that both items had previously been scrutinised by the Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Sub Committee and that they were not being considered again but the Chairperson on behalf of the committee wanted to brief the wider committee on their findings.

It was agreed that Celtic Leisure would attend the Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Sub Committee on a quarterly basis and attend Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee on a six monthly basis.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

CHAIRPERSON

EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

16 January 2020

Chairperson: Councillor S.H.Reynolds

Vice Chairperson: Councillor R.Mizen

Councillors: M.Crowley, S.apDafydd, S.Harris, J.Jones, S.Miller, J.D.Morgan, R.Phillips, M.Protheroe, A.J.Richards, D.Whitelock and J.Hale

Officers In Attendance C.Millis and A.Thomas, S.Curran and J.Woodman-Ralph

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors P.A.Rees and C.Clement-Williams

1. **CONSULTATION ON EDUCATION, LEISURE AND LIFELONG LEARNING BUDGET AND DRAFT SAVINGS 2020/21**

An overview was received on the Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Budget and Draft Savings 2020/2021, as detailed in the circulated report.

It was explained that the budget before members today was a positive budget compared to previous years, but that the council still had to make savings of £2.148 million to ensure there was a balanced budget for 2020/2021.

Members raised the following points:

- Budget Line ELLL 1003 – Cleaning Services (Schools)
Members were concerned at the impact on school budgets if this cost was to transfer to schools and the impact this might have on the current excellent standard of cleanliness within schools, if schools had to save money to meet this additional budget pressure. Officers explained that savings still had to be made and that it would be an extra pressure on school budgets

but that it could be absorbed by schools. The current cleaning service had received many compliments for the standard of cleanliness and schools understood the need of this standard to continue.

Members asked that officers consider phasing the transfer of cleaning costs to schools over a 3 years period.

- Budget Line ELLL1004 – School Transport – Out of County
Members asked how officers could forecast that there would be a reduction in the need for transportation to special schools out of county. Officers explained that the forecast was based on the current numbers of children in out of county placements who would reach the age of 19 in July 2020 whose placements would end.
- Budget Line ELLL 1001 – Leisure Trust
Members queried was this saving achievable. Officers confirmed that discussions were currently taking place with the provider to maximise their income which would result in a reduction of the subsidy.
- Budget Line ELLL 707 – Pontardawe Arts Centre
Members asked whether the projected income from the Cinema project at the centre was feasible to result in a reduction in subsidy. Officers confirmed that the increased income from establishing the cinema which was scheduled to open in January 2021 would be able to allow the subsidy to reduce. In addition, a capital investment had been agreed by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, with a further investment being sought from the Arts Council for Wales and the Friends of Pontardawe Arts Centre to support the development.

Members asked that officers consider reducing the subsidy to the Arts Centre over a 3 year period rather than 2 years as detailed in the circulated report.

The committee was pleased that the work previously undertaken to strengthen the Library Service had resulted in a sustainable service going forward.

Members asked that the officers ensure that the points raised today be included in the consultation on the Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Budget and Draft Savings 2020/2021.

CHAIRPERSON

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EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

23 January 2020

Chairperson: Councillor S.H.Reynolds

Vice Chairperson: Councillor R.Mizen

Councillors: M.Crowley, S.apDafydd, S.Harris, J.Jones, J.D.Morgan, M.Protheroe, D.Whitelock and J.Hale

Officers In Attendance C.Millis and A.Thomas, J.Burge, J.Haeney, C.L.Davies, C.Plowman and J.Woodman-Ralph

Co-opted Members: M.Caddick

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors A.R.Lockyer and P.A.Rees

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following members made declarations of interest at the start of the meeting.

Councillor C.M.Crowley Re: School Attendance Report as he is a governor at Twyn and Awel y Mor Primary School and confirmed he has dispensation to speak and vote.

Councillor S.Harris Re: School Attendance Report as she is a governor at Crynant Primary School and confirmed her dispensation to speak and vote.

Councillor D.Whitelock Re: School Attendance Report as he is a governor at Ysgol Cwm Brombil and confirmed his dispensation to speak and vote.

Councillor S. Ap Dafydd Re: School Attendance Report as he is a governor at St. Joseph's School and sixth form centre and at Ysgol Bae Baglan and confirmed his dispensation to speak and vote.

Councillor M.Protheroe Re: School Attendance Report as he is a governor at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive and Melin Primary School and confirmed his dispensation to speak and vote.

Councillor R. Mizen Re: School Attendance Report as he is a governor at Cwmafan Primary School and Ysgol Cwm Brombil and confirmed his dispensation to speak and vote.

He also has grandchildren who attend Neath Port Talbot schools.

Councillor S. Reynolds Re: School Attendance Report as she is a governor at Ysgol Gwaun Gae Gurwen and confirmed her dispensation to speak and vote.

Councillor J.D.Morgan Re: School Attendance Report as he is chair of governors at YGG Cwm-Nedd and confirmed his dispensation to speak and vote.

Councillor J.Jones Re: School Attendance Report as she is a school governor at the Afan Valley Federation of Schools and confirmed her dispensation to speak and vote.

M.Caddick Re: School Attendance Report as she is a school governor and confirmed her dispensation to speak and vote.

Councillor A.R.Lockyer Re: School Attendance Report as he is chair of governors at Gnoll Primary School and governor at YGG Castell Need and confirmed his dispensation to speak and vote.

He also has grandchildren who attend school in Neath Port Talbot and a relative who works within those schools.

Councillor P.A.Rees Re: School Attendance Report as he is a governor at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive and at Crynallt Primary School and confirmed his dispensation to speak and vote.

He also has grandchildren who attend schools in Neath Port Talbot.

2. **UPDATE ON PUPIL VOICE/ YOUTH COUNCIL**

Members received an update on Pupil Voice which was included in the Youth Service Update as detailed in the circulated report.

The committee was pleased with the success of the Duke of Edinburgh and Open Gold Award Scheme with over 400 young people gaining the award and asked that their appreciation be cascaded to staff who support the young people undertaking the award.

Discussion took place on the increase in attendance at Youth Clubs and asked if the latest data on these numbers could be circulated to the committee.

Clarification was given that the format of the data contained within the report was compiled and submitted as a requirement of the Welsh Government and that the data was not used to compare performance year on year.

It was highlighted that the current youth club provision was based on need and established in areas of deprivation but historically some

clubs had been established in areas that would not meet the current criteria but those clubs would continue.

In addition, surveys/mapping take place every 3 years and takes into account groups that are arranged by voluntary organisations and the council works in partnership with those groups to support them, to try to increase the current provision.

Confirmation was received that any new youth clubs could only be arranged at the expense of losing an existing provision, as there was no additional funding available to increase the current council provision. Funding was always a concern especially in regard to the format of the grant provision from Welsh Government being based on an annual basis. This results in long term planning being difficult as the criteria for each funding stream can change and cease in some cases. The committee reiterated the importance of this vital service continuing.

Further data was requested on the provision for young people who are NEET (not in employment, education or training). Officers explained that the youth service aims to work with the young people who not engaging with services.

Officers in future reports to consider identifying the reason why there was no impact on the valleys.

At members request consideration be given to inviting a young person to become a scrutiny member of this committee.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

3. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

The committee chose to scrutinise the following cabinet board items:

School Attendance

Members received information and data in relation to Neath Port Talbot pupil attendance and persistent absenteeism as detailed in the circulated report.

Discussion took place on decrease in attendance compared to the same period last year and asked if the impact was mainly on schools

in deprived areas. Officers explained that in the latter part of 2019 a number of schools were affected by the Norovirus which impacted on both children and staff but no schools within Neath Port Talbot closed. Also, schools not in deprived areas can have a higher level of unauthorised school absence due to the increased number of holidays taken. At the request of Members in future, data would include the area and reason for absence.

Further discussion took place on the importance of members who were school governors to keep raising attendance at governing body meetings so that it was constantly on school agendas.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

Longlands Lane Playing Fields and Changing Rooms

The committee received information on the proposal to declare the playing fields and changing rooms at Longlands Lane, Margam, Port Talbot, as being surplus to the ongoing strategic and operational requirements of the Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Service as detailed in the circulated report.

Discussion took place on the lack of sports facilities in the area and asked that this be a consideration during future proposals for the use of the site. Officers explained that any decision on the future use of the site would fall under the remit of Regeneration and Sustainable Cabinet Board.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by cabinet board.

4. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

Confirmation was given that the site visit to schools would take place on the 3 February and not the 27 January 2020 as stated in the Forward Work Programme.

CHAIRPERSON

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education, Skills and Leisure Scrutiny Committee
19th March 2020

Report of the Head of Participation

Matter for Information

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Report Title Cerdd NPT Music Update

Purpose of the Report:

To present members with an update on Cerdd NPT Music

Executive Summary:

The Cerdd NPT music service is a highly skilled team of peripatetic teachers that deliver weekly high quality instrumental, vocal and full class music curriculum lessons to all primary schools, all secondary schools, one special school and Hillside Secure Children's Home in Neath Port Talbot at a very competitive rate compared to other LA music services in Wales.

Background:

The Cerdd NPT Music service was established in September 2016 as a stand-alone music service for Neath Port Talbot following the disengagement from Swansea and the discontinuation of the West Glamorgan Music Service. The service continues to work very closely with all regions within the ERW music hub.

Finance:

Core funding was originally £272,000 but since the disengagement from Swansea, by slim lining the work force, re-setting timetables and cutting travel time and costs our present core funding is £162,000. This has been off-set by £64K in 20/21 and by £62K for 21/22 by WG grants over the two years. The WG carried out a feasibility study of all music services in Wales and the results have recently been published. We are hopeful

that the results will show that core funding from WG is needed to sustain all music services in Wales.

The Service:

Present staffing levels are a Manager (teaching one day a week), two Senior Team Leaders (with one day of office time), twenty-four contracted teachers (18 FTE), two self-employed teachers and one part-time Admin officer. All contracted staff undertake performance management, administered by the Senior Team Leaders.

Our highly skilled team of peripatetic teachers deliver weekly high quality instrumental, vocal and full class music curriculum lessons to all primary schools, all secondary schools, one special school and Hillside Secure Children's Home in Neath Port Talbot at a very competitive rate compared to other LA music services in Wales. Information from our recent data tells us we deliver music provision to just under 5000 NPT children a week and 1900 of these receive small group vocal or instrumental lessons. We are in constant contact with schools in order to deliver bespoke music packages which suit the individual needs of the schools. As we are not a statutory service, 'buy back' is at the discretion of school heads and dependent on how much they value music within their school.

Cerdd NPT Music staff run two after school music centres where NPT students are invited to join one of our seven ensembles and are offered many opportunities to perform in public as well as taking part in masterclasses, residential courses and music tours. Staff also prepare students for our NPT County Exams, Trinity College, London, ABRSM, GCSE, AS and A Level practical music examinations.

Along with our long established County Youth Brass Band, County Training and Junior Brass Band and County Training Orchestra, we have established a County Youth Symphony Orchestra in 2018.

In 2019 we successfully ran a choral project and have now established a County Youth Choir who meet weekly at Dwr y Felin Music Centre. We have also established a 'Rock and Pop' centre. From March 2020 we are establishing a 'County Junior Choir' for all Year 5 and 6 NPT pupils.

Financial Impacts:

No implications

Integrated Impact Assessment:

'There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for information purposes'.

No implications

Workforce Impacts:

No implications

Legal Impacts:

No implications

Consultation:

‘There is no requirement for external consultation on this item’

Recommendations:

Matter for information – no recommendations required.

Implementation of Decision:

Matter for information – no recommendations required.

Appendices:

None

Officer Contact:

Wayne Pedrick – Manager Cerdd NPT Music w.pedrick@npt.gov.uk

Chris Millis – Head of Participation c.d.millis@npt.gov.uk

Mike Daley – Lead Challenge Adviser m.daley@npt.gov.uk

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Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education, Skills and Leisure Scrutiny Committee
19th March 2020

Report of the Head of Participation

Matter for Information

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Report Title. Update of the Vulnerable Learners Service (VLS)

Purpose of the Report:

To provide members with information on the structure, provision and support of the Vulnerable Learners Service (VLS).

Executive Summary:

This report will provide information on how the Vulnerably Learners Service addresses support and provision for learners within the Local Authority.

Background:

Recent cuts to the Welsh Government's Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant (MEAG) and Traveller Education Grants (TEG) 2018-19 resulted in subsequent loss of funding for the LA to support the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS) and The Traveller Education Service (TES) service.

The initial impact resulted in the loss of staff from both services. In view of this the LA amalgamated these two services in April 2019 creating the Vulnerable Learners Service (VLS).

Commencing March 2019 the Welsh Government partially re-instated a proportion of the grant which has now enabled the Vulnerable Learners Service (VLS) to restructure and recruit part time staff, this has also enabled the new service to provide suitable support to meet the increasing demands and needs of schools within the Local Authority, in particular addressing the concerns that schools have with regards to the diversity of their families and learners. Page 33

The VLS focusses on providing support and guidance for families and learners from the following backgrounds: Ethnic Minority (EM) learners, learners who speak English as an Additional Language (EAL), learners from the Gypsy and Roma Traveller communities (GRT), as well as learners and families associated with the armed forces and Young Carers.

In Line with LA initiatives the VLS employs staff that reflect the needs of the community and schools that it supports; the VLS employs 13 staff on a full time and part time basis. Staffing includes, Teachers, Teaching Assistants, the majority of whom are bilingual (BTA).

Funding Streams

To maximise provision for the LA the VLS has sourced funding (as well as from the Education Improvement Grant) from various organisations which include:

1. 14-19 Fund
2. British Council
3. Cynnydd Project
4. Home Office
5. Armed Forces Covenant

Funding for the VLS can be broken down as follows:

- One full time Senior Teacher Development Officer (responsible for overseeing the Vulnerable Learners Service).
- One full time Teacher Development Officer (Responsible to oversee the Cynnydd Project, which is funded by the European Social Fund and WG/LA).
- One part time Teacher Traveller and Armed Forces Liaison Officer (Responsible for overseeing traveller and armed forces families and learners, funded by the WG/LA and Armed Covenant Fund).
- One full time Bilingual Teaching Assistant (Polish –BTA funded by the WG/LA).
- Two part time BTAs (Romanian and Bengali funded by the WG/LA).
- One part time Teaching Assistant (TA) responsible for traveller learners (funded by the WG/LA).
- Four Arabic BTAs (responsible for Syrian Refugee learners and their families who arrived under the government's Syrian Re-location Programme 2015 and funded by the Home Office).
- Two part time Chinese Language Assistants (funded by the British Council)

The Vulnerable Learners Service works in partnership with all Primary and Secondary schools in Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) as well as the Neath Port Talbot College (NPTC) group.

The Service is core funded by the Education Improvement Grant (EIG), and now the Welsh Government (WG) and LA. However to maximise this provision the service has initiated other streams of funding.

The Focus of the service is to support the learners from Ethnic Minority (EM) backgrounds who are at risk of underachievement which also includes those learners with English as an Additional Language (EAL).

In addition we support families and learners from the Gypsy Roma Community, families and learners from other Traveller communities (Irish, English, Welsh and Scottish, Circus families), and lastly families and Learners who belong to the Armed forces or have been associated with the armed forces for the past 6 years.

The VLS also works in corroboration with the LA Young Carers forum.

NPT Statistics 2019-20

NPTCBC have approximately 1,400 EM/EAL learners (500+ speak very little or no English).

There are 68 different first languages spoken, other than English and Welsh within the LA The most frequently spoken are: Bengali, Polish, Chinese, Mandarin and/ or Cantonese, Arabic, and Romanian. These statistics have enabled the service to recruit staff to reflect the Authority's diversity.

There are also approximately 81 Traveller Learners currently on roll in both Primary and Secondary Schools, with 30 additional traveller Children not on role, but educated off site in their own education and monitored by the LA Elective Home Education Service.

There are approximately 68 Children on roll in our schools belonging to families associated with the armed forces.

Approximately 40+ schools annually have some form of support or advice from this VLS.

However, these figures change almost weekly.

The VLS works closely with other Local Authorities and partner organisations to ensure we can maximise suitable provision for schools, learners and families.

Some examples of support and provision the VLS can provide:

- In Class support for the above learners.
- Translation of school documents.
- Sign posting to relevant partners.

- Language Clubs.
- First Language support to gain GCSE/AS/A Level in Home Language examinations.
- International days and cultural events support.
- Review meetings and working with parents.
- Support families from the above groups at school events and relevant meetings.
- Mentoring and advocacy as well as monitoring learner performance.
- Training for SMT/Teachers/Teaching/Assistants/NQTs/Governors and Councillors.
- Community Cohesion events.
- Working with and supporting schools to recognise cultural events as well as celebrate Language and International days.

Financial Impacts:

No implications

Integrated Impact Assessment:

‘There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for information purposes’.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications

Workforce Impacts:

No implications

Legal Impacts:

No implications

Consultation:

‘There is no requirement for external consultation on this item’

Recommendations:

Matter for information – no recommendations required.

Implementation of Decision:

Matter for information – no recommendations required.

Appendices:

No Appendices are attached to this report

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**Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2019/20**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Officer
19 March 2020	Update from vulnerable learners service	Chris Millis/ Mark New
	Update on the Music Service – Sustainability as the grant is only available for 2 years.	Chris Millis / Wayne
23 April 2020	Feminine Hygiene Grant – Update Report	Andrew Thomas
	30 hour childcare – update report relating to the corporate plan	Chris Millis
	Performance report on Modern Foreign Language and comparative data on boys achievements in Schools (included in the Annual Pupil Performance Data Cabinet Board Report)	Chris Millis
	Report on the results of the combating poverty pilot (presentation)	Aled Evans
	Leisure and Culture Sub Minutes	Charlotte Davies

Items to be programmed in for future meetings

Version 9 – 13 March 2020

Officer Responsible: Charlotte Davies

- All Members Seminar Additional Learning Needs Reform Part 2 – Date TBC
- Report on how the Unicef Rights Respecting Awards was embedded in the day to day running of schools within Neath Port Talbot (September 2020)